

STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS

Published Monthly by
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



Vol. 2

May, 1959

No. 5

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

Arizona Legislation -- The 1959 Arizona legislature appropriated \$102.2 million to state departments and institutions for general operations in fiscal 1960. This compares with spending of \$85.4 million for comparable purposes in the current period. The additional expenditures will be financed by an increase in the sales tax from 2 to 3 cents on the dollar.

About two-thirds of the sales tax revenue -- which is estimated at \$19 million -- is earmarked for increasing state aid to schools from \$127 to \$170 per pupil. County support for pupils was decreased from \$30.50 to \$10 per pupil, but counties were directed to establish equalization funds equivalent to \$20 for each pupil, to be distributed to school districts on the basis of need.

In highway safety legislation two enactments provide mandatory jail sentences and license suspension or revocation on second conviction of drunken driving or reckless driving. The jail sentences may be served at night and on holidays in hardship cases, permitting heads of households to support their families. The legislature provided for uniform traffic tickets and for immediate trial of traffic violators if they live outside the citing jurisdiction. Another measure shifted half the cost of installing railroad-crossing warning signals from the railroads to the Highway Department, counties and cities.

The legislature increased welfare assistance to the aged and the blind \$10 a month and increased assistance to dependent children and needy families. An appropriation of \$500,000 was voted for curtailing an infestation of pink bollworm that has hit the state's multi-million dollar cotton industry.

Other enactments included establishment of an oil and gas commission to regulate drilling and production; institution of an ad valorem tax on oil and gas production; and revision of the state boating safety act to provide for registration and regulation in line with the new federal boating law.

Georgia Legislation -- The Georgia legislature did not consider a budget measure this session and expects to carry over the 1959 budget of about \$330 million for fiscal 1960.

A number of measures abolished or eliminated by consolidation about twenty-five boards, bureaus or commissions. Among those abolished were advisory groups to the Fire Commissioner, Civil Defense Division, Department of Commerce and Pardon and Parole Board. Functions of the Department of Entomology and the Milk Commission were transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

One enactment established a joint committee on legislative operations and an office of Legislative Counsel, the latter to be responsible for bill drafting and other services to the legislature and the joint committee. Other acts established a code of ethics prohibiting state officials and employees from doing business with the state; set up a Governor's Committee on Economy and Reorganization; and authorized the Governor to create a crime investigation commission.

Salaries of some administrative officials and legislators were increased. Base salaries of \$10,000 plus expenses and longevity were approved for the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue and the State Purchasing Agent. The annual level of pay and allowances of legislators was raised from \$1,200 to \$1,600.

Among other enactments, maximum speed limits for automobiles were increased from 50 to 55 miles per hour at night and from 60 to 65 by day.

Idaho Legislation -- The Idaho Legislature approved a general fund appropriation of more than \$75.6 million for 1959-61 -- almost \$11 million above appropriations for the current biennium. The greatest single increase, of \$5 million, raises support for the minimum education program to \$27 million for the next biennium.

The cost of state operations during the next two years, including special and dedicated funds, is estimated at \$211 million.

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Highway construction and operation account for \$90 million -- up \$13 million from the previous biennium. This includes \$55 million in matching funds from the federal government. Total appropriations for education amount to more than \$47.8 million, an increase of more than \$9 million over 1957-59.

The legislature voted a series of measures that are expected to raise state income by \$10 million. Included were an increase of the cigarette tax from 4 to 5 cents a pack, increased income tax rates, elimination of an income tax credit of \$5 per dependent, a \$10 surtax on each income tax return filed, and adoption of the federal exemption structure.

In highway safety action the legislature increased the highway patrol, instituted a uniform system of registered traffic tickets and established a demerit rating system for drivers, permitting revocation of licenses by magistrates for repeated moving violations.

The Western Interstate Corrections Compact was adopted.

The legislature approved two constitutional amendments to be submitted to the voters next year. One would change the limit on state bonded indebtedness from a flat \$2 million to 3 per cent of the state's assessed valuation, which would place the current limit at about \$19 million. The change is designed to permit financing of a long range building program for state institutions. The second amendment would lower the voting age to 19.

Montana Legislation -- Montana's legislature adopted a record \$78.2 million general fund appropriation for the 1959-61 biennium -- about \$13 million higher than the 1957-59 figure. More than \$17 million was allocated to state support of the public schools, an increase of about \$3.5 million; and more than \$17.5 million, an increase of \$1.6 million, for the Montana university system and its affiliated services.

Increases adopted for income taxes on individuals and corporations were expected to produce an added \$16.5 million in the biennium.

A major change in executive organization was accomplished through passage of a

law making the Governor rather than the Controller the chief budget officer. The act requires the Governor to present a balanced budget proposal to each legislative session, including an estimate of income expected from any new revenue measures recommended. Provision is made for the Governor to appoint a full time budget director.

The legislature adopted a comprehensive 280 page revision of the state's insurance laws, to become effective January 1, 1961. Basis for the revision was a study ordered by the 1957 legislature. In other enactments the legislature ratified the Western Interstate Corrections Compact, eliminated presidential primaries, provided for registration of paid lobbyists, and provided for state regulation of motor boating and other water sports. It submitted to the voters constitutional amendments that would establish four year terms for all city and county officials and would establish separate state governing boards for the university system and the primary-secondary schools.

Nevada Legislation -- The 1959 Nevada legislature approved a general spending program of \$33.5 million for the 1959-60 fiscal year. This is about \$10 million more than the yearly rate of general spending under the current biennial budget of nearly \$47 million. The changeover from biennial to fiscal year appropriations follows passage last year of a constitutional amendment providing for annual regular sessions beginning in 1960.

Education and new construction account for most of the increased spending. School appropriations were increased from about \$8.5 million a year (\$17 million for the current biennium) to more than \$11 million. More than half of a \$5 million outlay for capital improvements went to institutions of higher education, including \$2.5 million for a new library on the University of Nevada's Reno campus and \$550,000 for a new classroom building at the Las Vegas campus of Nevada Southern.

To balance the added spending the state plans to use part of a \$15 million surplus in the general fund and \$2.7 million from the distributive school fund. No new taxes were imposed.

The legislature ratified the Western Interstate Compact for Higher Education. Another act created a five man commission, responsible to the Governor, as the gaming control authority. Previously the State Tax Commission had controlled gaming.

New Mexico Legislation -- General fund outlays of almost \$71 million for 1959-61 were approved by the 1959 New Mexico legislature, an increase of some \$8 million over the current biennium. Pledged contingencies and bond retirement costs will add more than \$1 million to spending financed by unearmarked revenue. Other state expenditures are expected to total \$168 million, with the Highway Department accounting for \$137 million.

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1313 East Sixtieth Street, Chicago 37, Illinois

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\$2 per year

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Major items accounting for general fund increases are allocations of \$7 million for capital outlay at educational institutions and \$1 million for increased welfare payments.

Estimated general fund income for the biennium is \$71.3 million. If a deficit appears to be materializing the Board of Finance is authorized to trim budgets by as much as 15 per cent. New Mexico's constitution prohibits deficit spending from the general fund.

Among its enactments the legislature provided for regulation, registration and bonding of companies distributing trading stamps; restricted union picketing to cases involving employee-management disputes; and provided for state reimbursement to utilities for costs of moving facilities as a result of highway construction. The Western Interstate Corrections Compact was adopted.

In highway regulation the legislature provided for indication of blood type on driver licenses and tightened the drunken driving statute, increasing penalties and giving judges discretion to revoke licenses. Additional measures established a system for registration and regulation of small boats and authorized a State Radiation Technical Advisory Council. Several bills were passed, and a constitutional amendment was submitted to the voters, to provide for continuity of government in case of nuclear attack.

Other constitutional amendments submitted to the electorate included provisions for: (1) four year terms for elective state officials; (2) annual sessions of the legislature, adding a thirty day session in even numbered years; (3) staggered terms for State Senators, giving half the members six year terms on the condition that they cannot succeed themselves.

Utah Legislation -- The Utah legislature voted general fund appropriations of almost \$91.9 million for 1959-61 -- a \$10 million increase over the last biennium. In addition, obligations to the Uniform School Fund were raised to more than \$78.4 million, an increase of \$16.7 million. Appropriations from other special funds total \$34.8 million as compared with \$28.1 million in the current biennium.

To balance the general fund the legislature enacted measures increasing the state's income by an estimated \$7 million. The oil and gas severance tax was doubled -- from 1 to 2 per cent. Income tax withholding was extended from nonresidents to residents. The legislature provided for limited tax refunds on gas used for off-highway, agricultural purposes.

A countywide optional sales tax of one-half of 1 per cent was authorized for support of municipal and county governments. The legislature established a State Insurance Department, a Utah Committee on Aging and a Coordinating Council of Higher Education. It provided for continuity of state government in event of nuclear attack, increased workmen's compensation, lengthened the maximum unemployment compensation period from twenty-six weeks to thirty-nine for

most workers, and reduced benefits for most categories of seasonal workers. The Western Interstate Corrections Compact was adopted.

Affecting highway regulation, one measure established hearing procedures before licenses of drivers with repeated moving violations are revoked or suspended. Another act provided for registration and regulation of small boats.

Washington Legislation -- The 1959 Washington legislature, in a sixteen day special session immediately after its regular sixty day meeting, adopted a record \$2 billion budget for the 1959-61 biennium -- an increase of \$617 million.

General fund appropriations were \$352 million for public schools; \$84 million for higher education; \$75 million for other public institutions, including \$4.5 million in federal funds; and \$81 million for all other state operations.

To balance spending the legislature raised the sales tax from 3-1/3 cents to 4; raised the cigarette tax from 5 cents to 6; and increased the base tax on liquor from 10 to 15 per cent. In addition a 25 per cent tax was levied on tobacco products other than cigarettes, and business and occupation taxes were increased slightly.

The legislature increased unemployment benefits from \$35 to \$42 a week and extended the benefit period to thirty weeks. It established a minimum hourly wage of \$1 an hour for most workers and made time-and-a-half payment mandatory for work over eight hours a day or forty hours a week.

Among other measures it ratified the Western Interstate Corrections Compact, instituted a merit system covering employees in state institutions, and voted to raise the pay of all elected state officials. Governor Albert D. Rosellini vetoed the portion of the pay measure that increased the Governor's salary.

West Virginia Legislation -- The West Virginia legislature voted a record \$114 million in general fund appropriations for fiscal 1960 -- \$5 million over figures for the current year.

A \$1.25 million increase in school aid, the same for a program to revalue and equalize property assessment in the counties, an equal amount for special higher educational needs, and an additional \$650,000 for mental hospitals make up most of the increased appropriations.

An estimated \$4.5 million annually in new revenue is expected from an increase in the business and occupational gross receipts tax, college tuition hikes of \$100 a year, a real estate transfer tax and increased racing and license fees. A 1 cent increase voted in the gas tax -- to 7 cents a gallon -- is expected to produce \$10 million annually.

The legislature authorized state and local authorities to set minimum speed limits, and transferred to municipal courts and justices of the peace jurisdiction previously

held by juvenile courts over youths involved in traffic cases. Minimum financial responsibility requirements were raised from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for personal injury, and the injury limit for one accident was increased to \$20,000.

A motor boat act was adopted prescribing safety equipment, regulating use and establishing a licensing system for vessels of more than five horsepower at an initial charge of \$5 -- renewable annually for \$2. The legislature established a seven member State Water Resources Commission to inventory water resources, make studies, and submit recommendations and plans. It is authorized to enter compacts and agreements on interstate water problems with the legislature's consent.

Responsibility for civil defense was shifted from the Office of the Adjutant General to a newly created State Department of Civil and Defense Mobilization. The legislature approved for referendum a constitutional amendment to provide for continuity of government in event of enemy attack. It enacted a measure providing for emergency interim legislative succession and emergency locations for legislative sessions.

Wyoming Legislation -- The Wyoming legislature appropriated a record total of almost \$28.4 million for general state operation in 1959-61 -- an increase approximating \$2 million over the previous biennium. Special purposes appropriations will bring the figure to more than \$32.5 million, compared with over-all costs of about \$32 million for the previous two years.

To balance spending, the state expects to have resources of more than \$34.9 million. This includes almost \$6 million in available unobligated surplus and estimated general fund income of \$28.9 million. The legislature increased cigarette taxes from 3 to 4 cents a package.

Action for higher education included authorization of an \$11.7 million building program at the University of Wyoming; authorization of 300 scholarships of \$250 each for teacher training; establishment of a \$50,000 fund to guarantee 80 per cent of private loans up to \$500 a year to students attending accredited colleges and universities; and appropriation of \$400,000 for community colleges. The legislature appropriated \$1.25 million for the school foundation program.

Among highway measures the legislature increased the highway patrol and raised the speed limit to 70 miles per hour on four lane divided highways and to 65 on other unposted roads.

Several measures were voted to aid political subdivisions. These included submission to the voters of proposed constitutional amendments to raise municipal debt limits and municipal and school district tax limits.

The Western Interstate Corrections Compact was adopted.

HAWAII STATEHOOD

Recent action by federal and territorial officials has moved closer Hawaii's entry as the fiftieth state of the Union.

The United States Senate approved statehood by a vote of 76 to 15 on March 11. The House of Representatives passed the bill March 12, 323 to 89. President Eisenhower signed the act March 18.

Governor William F. Quinn has set June 27 for a primary and plebiscite election. Final election will take place July 28. The election will select the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the legislature, two United States Senators and one United States Representative. The new legislature will convene ten days after Admissions Day as proclaimed by the President. Elected officials will take office on that day.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Oklahoma Repeal -- The Oklahoma electorate voted in a special election on April 7 to repeal state prohibition of alcoholic beverages. The measure ended fifty-one years of prohibition under the state's constitution. A county option plan, voted on at the same time, was defeated. This is the sixth time since statehood that Oklahoma has voted on prohibition repeal.

Annual Sessions Amendment -- The Pennsylvania legislature has approved for the second time a proposed constitutional amendment to provide for annual sessions of the legislature. To become effective it must be approved by majority vote of the electorate next November. Under the amendment, legislative sessions in even numbered years would be restricted to considering revenue and appropriation bills.

Constitutional Amendments Commission -- A joint resolution of the Vermont legislature has authorized appointment of a commission to consider constitutional amendments at the 1961 legislative session. The state constitution provides that amendments may be proposed only once every ten years. To be adopted amendments must be approved by two legislative sessions and ratified by majority vote of the electorate on each amendment. The joint commission will consist of the Attorney General and seven members to be appointed by the Governor. Under terms of the resolution it will submit a report, including proposed amendments, to the Governor by September 15, 1960.

VERMONT LEGISLATURE TO RECONVENE IN 1960

The Vermont legislature has adopted a resolution providing that after adjournment this year it shall reconvene on January 12, 1960. Ordinarily the legislature meets in

odd numbered years. In 1960 it will meet "to consider principally" necessary amendments to the general appropriation bill, highway problems and bills required to carry out recommendations of the Vermont "Little Hoover" Commission.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Recent legislation in Idaho provides for additional unemployment benefit coverage during abnormal unemployment periods.

Governor Robert E. Smylie in his annual message to the legislature had urged adoption of recommendations of the Advisory Council of the Employment Security Agency on a plan for triggering additional benefits. Governor Smylie noted in his message that the 1957 legislature had increased the benefit formula to a maximum of \$40 a week. The agency, in a memorandum prepared for staff members and management and labor organizations in the state, concluded that the present program -- both as to benefit payments and the benefit period -- was adequate under all but abnormal conditions. What was now needed, the agency said, was a plan to provide for extreme need.

The measures adopted by the legislature and signed by the Governor incorporate a plan of the agency's which has two bases: (1) the level of insured unemployment and (2) the ratio of benefit exhaustions to first claims within the applicable benefit year.

The legislation provides for a sixteen week extension of benefits when the ratio of exhaustions at the end of a calendar quarter is more than 10 per cent above a seven year average for the comparable quarter, and insured unemployment exceeds 6 per cent.

Before the plan was presented to the legislature the agency conducted a cost study. It showed that had the plan been in effect during the preceding seven years, extended benefits would have been paid during the first quarter of 1955, the first and second quarters of 1958 and the first quarter of 1959. It also showed that such a plan would not have affected the solvency of the reserve fund and would have had little or no effect on tax rates.

CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

As of May 1, twenty-one states had enacted all or some part of the suggested continuity of government legislation recommended by the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization and the Committee of State Officials on Suggested State Legislation of the Council of State Governments.

The seven most recent adoptions are by Arkansas, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico and New York. Legislation has been approved by both houses in Alaska, Hawaii and North Carolina and awaited action by the Governor. The New Jersey and North Dakota legislatures have adopted resolutions creating interim committees to study continuity of government.

STATE ORGANIZATION

Alaska's New Structure -- The First Alaska state legislature has passed and Acting Governor Hugh J. Wade has signed a state organization act. The measure organizes the administrative structure as the office of Governor and twelve departments -- Administration, Law, Revenue, Education, Health and Welfare, Labor, Commerce, Military Affairs, Natural Resources, Fish and Game, Public Safety, and Public Works.

Among other actions the legislature established a state court system and set the salaries for Governor and Secretary of State, Alaska's only statewide elected officials. The Governor's salary was placed at \$25,000 and that of the Secretary of State at \$18,000.

The state court system comprises a three man Supreme Court and an eight judge Superior Court, both to be in operation by January 3, 1962. The present Federal District Court will continue during the transitional period. This will permit preparation of court rules and procedures and allow for planning court facilities throughout the state. Alaska will be divided into four Superior Court jurisdictions, approximately along the lines of its four major election districts. The judicial pay scale will be \$19,000 for Superior Court Judges, \$22,500 for Supreme Court Justices and \$23,500 for the Chief Justice.

A seven member Judicial Council will have responsibility for planning the courts during the transitional period. The Governor will appoint judges from nominations of the Council.

Tennessee Reorganization -- Tennessee will operate in fiscal 1959-60 under a new reorganization statute, recently enacted by the legislature and signed by Governor Buford Ellington.

The reorganization provides for three constitutional officers, four staff divisions of the Governor's office, thirteen line departments, and the Adjutant General's Department. The aim is improved economy, efficiency and service.

The number of officials reporting directly to the Governor was reduced from seventy-eight to eighteen. State housekeeping and financial functions were consolidated under the Director of Finance and Administration -- one of four staff divisions in the Governor's Office. These functions include budgeting, accounting, public works, planning, property, architectural services and the state motor pool.

A Department of Conservation and Commerce was created to carry out the state's program of industrial promotion and development and to continue the duties of conservation. Other departments are Agriculture, Corrections, Education, Employment Security, Highways, Insurance and Banking, Labor, Mental Health, Public Health, Public Welfare, Revenue and Safety. Divisions and agencies in all departments were streamlined to reduce administrative costs and improve services.

COURT STRUCTURES AND PROGRAMS

Judicial Reform -- The Iowa legislature has approved and Governor Herschel C. Loveless has signed three judicial reorganization measures recommended by the Iowa Supreme Court. One act authorizes the Chief Justice to call judicial conferences. Another empowers the Supreme Court to adopt and enforce rules for the administration of all inferior courts in the state. The third act abolishes Iowa's rotating chief justiceship and provides that the Supreme Court shall select from among its members a Chief Justice to serve for the remainder of his term on the court.

The legislature passed for the first time a resolution for a constitutional amendment that would bring a number of court changes. It would give the Supreme Court administrative control of inferior courts and permit the legislature to set salaries and qualifications for judges. The legislature would establish a mandatory retirement system for all judges. Finally, the amendment would provide that Supreme Court Justices and district judges be appointed by the Governor from lists submitted by nominating commissions. To be adopted, the amendment must be approved by the 1961 legislature and then by the voters.

Report on Court Reorganization -- A Special Rhode Island Commission to Study and Review the Judicial System has submitted an interim report with recommendations. One series of recommendations deals with the district courts, another with the overall state judicial system.

The commission urged judicial redistricting and reduction of the districts from twelve to nine. It proposed that district court judges be given life tenure and higher salaries. The commission recommended that district court clerks be required to be members of the bar and suggested that they be available to serve as temporary judges in emergencies.

Several recommendations dealt with the overall judicial system, with particular reference to the role of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. It was proposed that he be designated head of the state's judicial system and be authorized to call periodic judicial conferences. Under the commission's plan the present administrative clerk's office would be renamed Administrator for the Courts and placed under the direction of the Chief Justice.

(See also "Alaska's New Structure," page 5.)

MENTAL HEALTH COMPACT

So far this year four additional states have ratified the Interstate Compact on Mental Health. They are Alaska, Arkansas, Indiana and South Dakota. This brings to sixteen the number of states that are party to the compact. Proposals to ratify are pending in the legislatures of several other states.

MENTAL RETARDATION

Pediatric Institute -- Groundbreaking ceremonies for the Illinois State Pediatric Institute were held April 2 in the state's medical center district in Chicago. The institute will serve mentally retarded children up to the age of 6. An allocation of \$5.5 million from the Mental Health Fund has been made for construction of the facility, which will have 585 beds. The institute will cooperate closely with the medical and other professional schools in the Chicago area. One of its features will be an out-patient clinic for diagnostic and counselling services.

Committee on Mental Retardation -- Governor George Docking of Kansas recently appointed a Governor's Committee on Mental Retardation to seek more effective coordination of state services for the retarded. Its members are the President of Emporia State College, the State Director of Institutions, the Director of Vocational Education, the Executive Secretaries of the State Boards of Social Welfare and of Health, and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Meantime the Kansas Department of Social Welfare reports that classes for educable mentally retarded children in public schools have increased from twelve in 1951 to eighty in the 1958-59 academic year. In addition there are fourteen classes for trainable retarded children.

Screening and Treatment -- The Nebraska Psychiatric Institute has established a pilot screening and treatment unit for all children under age 6 who are considered mentally retarded by their local communities. Children in this age group who are committed to the Beatrice State Home, an institution for the mentally defective, are transferred to the Psychiatric Institute for study and treatment.

Interdepartmental Committee -- Governor Michael V. DiSalle of Ohio has recently created an interdepartmental committee for coordination of state services for the mentally retarded. The Director of the Department of Mental Hygiene and Correction is chairman. The committee is currently compiling information on services for the mentally retarded provided by various state agencies.

PROBLEMS OF THE AGING

Coordinating Commission -- The Maryland legislature has created a State Coordinating Commission on Problems of the Aging.

It consists of sixteen members -- ten appointed by the Governor and six ex-officio state administrative officials. The appointees will be a legislator from each house, a representative of the State Medical Society, one from the Baltimore City Medical Society, representatives of labor and industry, a research expert, an individual associated with charitable organizations, and two others selected for their interest in the aging. Ex-officio will be the Directors of the Departments of Health, Public Welfare, and Employment Security, the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, the State Superintendent of Schools and the Chairman of the State Planning Commission.

The coordinating commission is authorized to study and survey problems of the aging and to cooperate with other state agencies and departments. It will report annually to the Governor and legislature on the results of its studies and will make recommendations for legislation. The act creating the commission authorizes its participation in state or federal conferences and acceptance and expenditure of federal funds which may become available.

Mississippi Council -- The Mississippi Council on Aging has been designated by Governor James P. Coleman as the agency responsible for all preparations for the 1961 White House Conference on Aging. The council is now planning its third annual Conference on Problems of the Aging, to be held in the autumn.

New Hampshire Report -- The New Hampshire Council on Problems of the Aging has submitted a report and recommendations to the legislature. It emphasizes the need to provide services for elderly persons in their homes rather than in institutions. This recommendation is based upon consideration of both welfare and costs to the state. The report calls for a "homemaker service program" to permit elderly persons who require some care to receive it in their homes. A pilot project of this type is now under way in Portsmouth. The report points out that providing necessary services for older persons is particularly important in New Hampshire since it ranks second in terms of the percentage of its population over 65. Some 63,000 persons, or 11.2 per cent of the state's population, are 65 or more.

OTHER WELFARE SERVICES

Welfare Compact Enacted -- Maine has become the first state to enact the Interstate Compact on Welfare Services. The compact, developed by officials in the northeastern states, provides that welfare services shall be available to persons who move from one party state to another. The services would be available regardless of failure to meet

residence and settlement requirements in the second state. The compact provisions apply to the categorical assistance programs, general assistance, child welfare services, care of unwed mothers and welfare medical services.

Utah Support Conference -- A Governor's Conference on Support was held April 14 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Governor George D. Clyde, Chief Justice J. Allen Crockett and Attorney General E. R. Callister, speaking at the opening session, emphasized the importance of support and the interest of the state in developing improved approaches to it. Attending were welfare workers and law enforcement and judicial officials from counties throughout the state. Participants discussed present practices and problems and considered various proposals for handling support matters more effectively. The discussion involved both intrastate and interstate aspects of support.

EDUCATION

Western Higher Education Workshop -- The second Western Regional Workshop on Higher Education met April 9-11 in San Francisco. Attending were state officials and college and university administrators from the thirteen western states, including Hawaii.

Preceding the general workshop, chairmen and members of key legislative committees met in a one day session with state budget officers, legislative fiscal analysts, and university administrators to study the budget process for state institutions of higher learning. This session dealt with such problems as organization of the budget review process, the validity of standards for reviewing university budgets, and the application of performance budgeting to higher education.

Among speakers and participants in the general workshop sessions were Governor Robert E. Smylie of Idaho, Chairman of the Western Governors' Conference; Governor Albert D. Rosellini of Washington, Vice-Chairman of the Western Governors' Conference; Governor Grant Sawyer of Nevada; and Lieutenant Governor Glenn M. Anderson of California. The workshop also heard talks by Senators Robert A. Durkee of Montana, Roy H. McVicker of Colorado and Orval Hafen of Utah on action by legislative committees in their states relative to financing and operation of publically supported colleges and universities.

In addition to general sessions, participants attended three two hour sessions in small discussion groups. The groups simultaneously examined such problems as the kinds of educational opportunities that should be made possible by the state at the junior college, college, and university level; the standards, fees and guidance that should apply at each level; the impact of class

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8

size on effective college teaching; student-faculty ratio and use of television; and the need for institutional self study to determine goals, programs, student body, instructional costs and effective use of space.

INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE COOPERATION

A recent forest fire in eastern North Carolina was brought under control and eventually extinguished through use of a special plane made available by Georgia. This example of interstate cooperation was made possible by the Southeastern States Forest Fire Compact.

F. H. Claridge, North Carolina State Forester, requested S. D. Beichler, Georgia Compact Coordinator, to send a special water bomber plane to the scene of the fire. Georgia, through its Forestry Commission, sent the plane and, in a second plane, a relief pilot, an aircraft mechanic and an administrative staff member. The water bomber was used for two days in making fifteen water drops on the fire, which burned about 15,000 acres of timberland.

Mr. Claridge reports that the plane was most effective in controlling the fire on difficult terrain which ground crews could not reach in time.

ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT

The Connecticut Health Department and the United States Atomic Energy Commission have developed an agreement for joint inspection of radioactive materials used for medical and industrial purposes in the state. The agreement is believed to be the first formal plan for joint inspection by state

and federal officials in this field. Officials of the State Health Department will inspect the uses of radioactive materials in hospitals and other medical facilities. They will participate jointly with A. E. C. inspectors in checking on uses of radioactive materials in industrial facilities. The agencies will provide each other with inspection schedules and information obtained through inspections. It is expected that the agreement will lessen duplication of efforts and promote more effective inspections.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Urban Renewal -- Nine counties in northern New Jersey have joined together for a study of slum clearance needs and urban renewal on an area-wide basis. The federal government has made a grant of \$130,106 for the regional project. New Jersey will contribute some \$65,000 in services.

Puerto Rico Municipal Government -- The Puerto Rico legislature recently approved a measure designed to modernize municipal systems of government in the commonwealth. One innovation in the legislation provides for representation of all minority parties on municipal councils, beginning with the November 1960 elections. Minority party representation in the Puerto Rico legislature is provided for in its constitution. The new measure transfers some services and functions of the state government to municipal authorities. Main purpose of the law is to reinforce local government and permit wider participation in it.

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